

FISCAL NOTE

SB 258

March 29, 2001

SUMMARY OF BILL: Enacts the *Tennessee Sustainable Forest Management Act of 2001* which:

1. Requires the governor to convene representatives from the departments of; tourism, agriculture and environment and conservation to develop and present a written plan to the Senate Environment, Conservation and Tourism Committee and the House Conservation and Environment Committee no later than February 1, 2002. The plan shall include the following:
 - Recreational activities that each state forest can support
 - Unique ecological, geological, historical or archeological sites
 - Fragile or other special areas that would need protection
 - A proposed budget for promotion of recreational and ecological values including a funding structure
 - Measures to ensure minimum impacts to air, soil and wildlife from increased use of forest lands
2. Directs the division of forestry to conduct an inventory to identify old growth or potential old growth forest areas. Public hearings are to be held with such hearings being advertised in local newspapers. Upon completion of such process the division of forestry is to establish buffer zones to protect old growth forest reserves in perpetuity. Once the old growth reserves have been established, this bill allows the harvesting of .1667 percent of the acreage of each state forest per year for the purpose of establishing demonstration plots. Other state forestlands may be harvested for the purpose of establishing demonstration plots provided that no more than one-sixth of one-percent of the total acreage may be harvested each year.
3. Directs the division of forestry is to develop a single-tree selection management plan on appropriate sections of state forests. The number of acres harvested under these plans may exceed the aforementioned limits. Demonstration projects are to be planned and conducted in conjunction with Tennessee universities. Impacts on soil compaction, erosion chemical composition, wildlife and plant life is to be determined. Requires the findings of each demonstration to be available to the public.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Decrease State Revenues - Exceeds \$500,000

Increase State Expenditures - Exceeds \$200,000 One-Time

Estimate assumes:

- A revenue loss from limiting harvest of timber to not more than 0.1667% of the total average of each state forest each year.
- Cost to inventory each forest and conduct ecological and archaeological surveys is estimated to exceed \$200,000.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



SB 258

James A. Davenport, Executive Director